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**DES**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**FEBRUARY 1994**

VOLUME 22

NUMBER 1



John E. Prendergast  
Adjutant General

Jim Greene  
Administrator

Marc Racicot  
Governor

## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE

Now that the holiday season is over, it is time to begin the new year with enthusiasm and purpose. We are actively preparing for the Governor's Conference and look forward to an interesting agenda. It appears that James Lee Witt, Director of FEMA, will be able to attend and address the conference at the banquet.

We have formed an Advisory Committee to address significant concerns and opportunities. Specifically, we are considering changes to the Disaster & Emergency Services mission, and possibly changes in our organization. This is an exciting time for us with potential major changes in the way we operate. No matter how much change there is, I foresee a strengthening of partnerships between local, state and federal responsibilities.

The Denver Regional Office of FEMA has a new director. He is Michael J. Armstrong. We look forward to working with Mr. Armstrong and hope you will get the opportunity to meet him at the Governor's Conference.

There will be many challenges in the coming year that we plan to approach with a positive attitude and that will take a coordinated effort to solve. We wish all of you a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Jim Greene  
Administrator

## THE PREZ SEZ

I hope that you all had a safe and happy holiday season and are ready to roll up your sleeves and jump into the New Year. And I hope to see all of you at the Governor's Conference in Billings in February.

It looks like DES is pulling all of the stops to ensure that we have a productive and useful week. The association will have an important meeting on the afternoon of February 15, when we will elect new officers for the biennium and vote on amendments to our bylaws.

Please carefully consider all items on your agenda and be prepared to make the best choices for your association. Our association has remained a vital and active part of the state's emergency management community because our members take the time to participate in our meetings to secure the very best DES organization for Montana.

See you in Billings to work, learn, meet new people and to renew old friendships. Have a safe trip.

Paul Spengler, DES Association President



## IMA CORNER

by  
Major Bill Rhoads

We have a new IMA on board! His name is Allen Edmonds from Miles City. Allen is a Master Sergeant assigned to District IV, helping out Norm Parrent. Allen is a fire control officer with the BLM. If you need to call Allen, his work number is 232-3846. Allen is planning to attend the Governor's Conference in Billings. We all look forward to meeting you in person, Allen. Good Luck!

The IMA's will have a luncheon meeting on Thursday, February 17th, at the Governor's Conference. Gail is making the arrangements for the meeting room. We will have an agenda put together by the meeting. If you, or any of the County Coordinators, or the State staff have any items you would like addressed by the IMA's, please let me know.

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## Clandestine Drug Laboratory Hazards

by  
Stephen L. Hermann

(Reprinted with permission from COHMED Newsletter)

The number of seized clandestine drug laboratories has increased by 25% during the past several years. These illegal manufacturing operations can be found almost anywhere, including mobile homes, commercial vehicle trailers, or disassembled and being transported in cars and pickup trucks. Many of the chemicals used are either flammable, corrosive, and/or toxic, and the drugs themselves may be in any of several stages of their manufacture.

Some of the chemicals with high acute toxicity are hydrochloric acid, hydriotic acid, lead acetate, mercury chloride, methylamine, phosphine, sodium metal, and thionyl chloride. High flammability hazard chemicals include benzene, ethanol, lithium, aluminum hydride, methylamine, petroleum ether and phosphine.

The glassware, tubing, containers and packages used to transport labs may be heavily contaminated with dangerous chemicals. Most of the individuals involved in making these illegal drugs do not have professional training, and their housekeeping practices and procedures are typically poor.

Several rules should be followed if you suspect you have encountered a drug lab, or its components being transported: Request fire department or hazardous materials team assistance; don't taste, smell, or touch any substance; don't smoke, eat, or drink in the vicinity; don't use matches, or lighters which could ignite vapors; if you may have touched any substances or containers, seek assistance to decontaminate yourself, your clothing and equipment; and do not move or touch containers which may be boobytrapped.

The most common indicators for a clandestine drug laboratory are: laboratory glassware-beakers, flasks, funnels, etc.; unusual glass objects-triple neck flasks, distillation apparatus; plastic or rubber tubing, clamps, laboratory ring stands, boxes for

laboratory type items; glass containers of chemicals, chemical drums, Red Devil Lye; chemistry reference books, "Anarchist Cookbook," etc.; heating mantles, hot plates, rheostats, rubber gloves; filter paper, vacuum pumps, litmus paper, thermometers, balance beam scales; amber colored one gallon glass jugs with no labels; and cardboard boxes or plastic trash bags containing the above.

Many of these chemicals can produce serious long-term health effects, even in small amounts. If you experience symptoms while examining a vehicle, you may have encountered a drug lab.

The following warning properties or symptoms could indicate that you may have been exposed to clandestine drug lab chemicals: burning or irritation of the eyes, nose or throat; tightness in the chest, difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath; headache, nausea, dizziness or anxiety; drowsiness, lack of coordination or mental confusion; strong chemical odors, such as an "old diaper" smell, decaying fish, or ammonia odor; flu-like symptoms, vomiting.

Many jurisdictions have anti-drug task forces. They employ fairly complicated procedures for raiding clandestine drug labs, involving personal chemical protective clothing, self contained breathing apparatus, chemical detecting and measuring devices, and stringent safety procedures. Some drug labs have been found with sophisticated surveillance equipment, police scanners, and boobytraps to both injure officers or intruders, and destroy evidence. A suspected drug lab is no place for an untrained officer.

Unfortunately, officers have been seriously injured, or retired medically, as a result of clandestine drug laboratories. If your department does not participate in a joint drug lab task force, you can get more information by contacting the nearest office of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in the following division offices: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, and Washington, DC.

## "Straight from the MCA"

by  
**Fred Cowie**

Several LEPC's have requested the MCA information on recovering hazmat incident response costs:

75-10-716. Definitions. As used in 75-10-717 and this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Emergency Responder" means a public safety agency or a private entity acting under a request from or authority granted by a government agency, including law enforcement, firefighting, ambulance or medical, and civil defense, that provides services in an emergency situation.

(2) "Hazardous Material Incident" means a release involving a hazardous or deleterious substance that endangers property, public health, or public safety.

History: En.Sec.1, Ch.464, L. 1991

75-10-717  
Recovery of Costs.  
An emergency responder has the right to recover from the responsible party the emergency responder's full costs directly related to the hazardous material incident.

History: En.Sec.2, Ch.464, L. 1991

## Individual Assistance

by  
**Dan McGowan**

The Individual Family Grant Program (IFGP) has been completed and resubmitted to Region VIII for approval. We plan to offer training for individuals working the plan sometime during the second quarter. Leslie Rucker has agreed to work with us to put together an agenda and help track specific issues.

The Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) group is really getting organized and making progress. They will attend the Governor's Conference again and are planning a one-day work session to draft the Montana VOAD plan.

## Training Needs Assessment

by  
Chris Christensen

The latest training needs assessment for Montana Emergency Management was expanded to provide a broader base of input. The first round of input was open ended and not restricted to just FEMA courses. The results of input received were consolidated and sent out to DES coordinators for prioritization. The following are the top ten in order of priority and what is being done to address them:

1. SOP development- the SERC training committee is exploring possible training to meet the need.

2. Disaster Recovery Operations- the FEMA course is under revision. When completed it is anticipated that it will be offered in Montana in FFY-95.

3. Damage Assessment- damage assessment will be presented at the 94 Governor's Conference Workshop.

4. Chief Executive Officer Training- the theme of 94 Governor's Conference is back to the basics.

Additionally most of the Professional Development series is appropriate for CEO's. The Public Policy for Emergency Management Course is specifically for CEO's and is available to communities throughout Montana.

7. ICS Command System- there are several ICS courses from the 3 hour orientation to the 2 day version depending upon the need of the audience.

8. Grant Writing- DES will conduct a pilot one day grant writing course February 3, 1994 in Helena.

9. Media Relations- the Effective Communications course will be conducted in Helena August 1994.

For those of you who provide input and prioritized training, please accept our sincere thanks. I am sure we will all be better for your efforts.



5. Resource List- the Operations Bureau is developing a resource list program that will be available to both state and local government. Some type of training will be provided when the list program is completed.



6. Evacuation Planning- we are still exploring training material for this need.

## HAZARD MITIGATION TEAM AT WORK

by  
**Larry Akers**

Recently the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT) assisted a Montana County in mitigating a problem. The problem is a low lying area in which homes have repeatedly flooded, especially during our wet summer of 1993. The very factors which contributed to the problem made resolution difficult from the local perspective. Three different road systems; County, BIA, and MT DOT, all contributed to the problem in varying degree, or were accused of being part of the problem. The landowners themselves displayed poor judgement in building in low lying areas. The area is not in a FEMA mapped floodplain so the county felt they had no power to preclude building. It should also be noted the county was not actively participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NIFP) so flood insurance was not available to the residents.

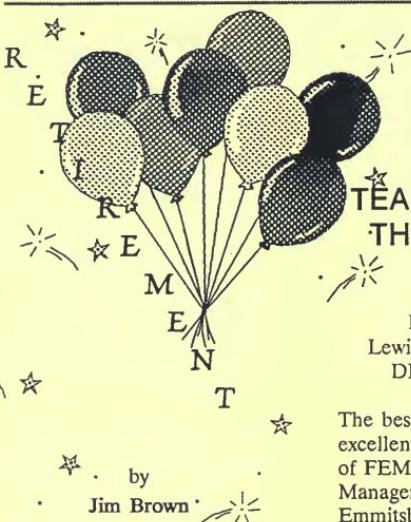
The MT SHMT did not come in with large amounts of money or great ideas of its own. What did take place was an on site working meeting and field visit. The right people to make decisions and recommendations were sought out, invited, and attended. They were: MT DOT Engineering, MT DOT District Representative, Local MT DOT personnel, BIA Engineering, BIA District Representative, Local BIA Personnel, County Road Supervisor, County Commissioners, County DES Coordinator (Local Hazard Mitigation Officer), MT DNRC Floodplain Manager, MT DES State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). Other SHMT members involved but not on site: MT DOT Operations, DNRC Water Resource Division.

Some road and drainage improvements and modifications were agreed upon and work will commence this winter. Other on site recommendations are under study. The State Floodplain Manager is assisting the county to get accepted in the NIFP program. One of the most significant proposals to come from the meeting was the planning

for enactment of a county floodplain. This is an area the county commissioners and the state floodplain manager are currently mapping. Just because FEMA has not mapped an area as a floodplain does not necessarily insinuate that a local government cannot impose local restrictions. Other counties may want to consider similar undertakings.

The main point here is that we do not have to wait until a disaster strikes to get into the mitigation mode. It is true that with a Federal Declaration a great deal of money is available for mitigation projects, however in the meantime just getting together and discussing a problem can often lead to a partial solution. It may be that we can write up a mitigation project for future funding. Should a Presidential Disaster be declared we would have pre-packaged projects which may be approved.

If you feel you have a situation which could be mitigated call Larry Akers (the SHMO) at 444-6911.



## TEAM BUILDING THE EMI WAY

by  
Paul Spenger  
Lewis & Clark County  
DES Coordinator

The best way to use the excellent training facilities of FEMA's Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland is to send a group of people from your community.

Not only does the experience encourage team-building for your county's emergency management system, but the students will learn lots of useful information that they will bring back to strengthen your program.

Lewis and Clark County was fortunate to have County Commissioner Mike Murray, Mayor Kay McKenna, City Manager Bill Verwolf and Deputy DES Coordinator Pat McKelvey attend EMI's Disaster Preparedness Seminar in mid-December.

Your elusive and lovable RADEF technician has decided to retire effective December 31, 1993!

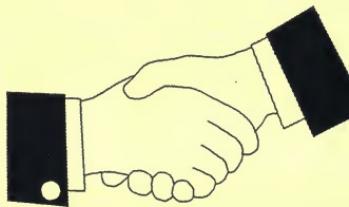
I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout the many years I have worked with you at DES. We have had some good times, seen many changes, and weathered some storms.

I've enjoyed working with all of you and will miss everyone. Keep in touch!

All of them reported that it was a valuable class, as they reviewed the City/County Emergency Operations Plan with their counterparts from around the country. The review was timely, because the plan is under review by our Emergency Management Committee, and they returned with practical ideas that will help us through the review process.

The best part of the class was the presentation on the media, which encouraged emergency managers to make the press part of the system in order to better inform the public before and after a disaster strikes.

The plan review brought back from EMI will be used to check our plan and the press will be invited to meetings to encourage even better cooperation between the emergency management community and the media.



## REVISED:

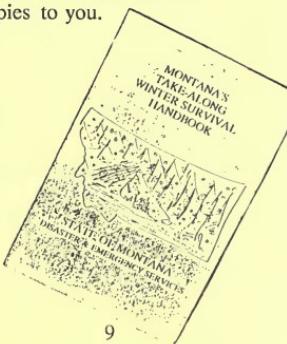
### "MONTANA'S TAKE-ALONG WINTER SURVIVAL HANDBOOK"

by  
**Larry Akers**

The new revised handbook is now available. Thanks to a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant and funding from Fred Cowie's Hazmat program we were able to republish this highly sought after product. The new handbook retains all of last year's helpful hints as well as additional material such as winter towing, HAZMAT safety, and an expanded cold weather injury section.

Unlike last year there will be no mass mailing. The reasons for this are twofold. One is the budget police and postage police are after me and keep reminding me that mailing costs money. The second and most important reason is that in my travels I have observed first edition handbooks still setting around in some coordinators offices. This

handbook is for public distribution. I now have five typewritten pages of clubs, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, rescue squads, snowmobile clubs, hunter safety programs, scout clubs, federal, state and local offices, and private industry, etc., that we have distributed to. At the end of the 10,000 copies last year we had numerous requests from worthy outfits that we could not fill. If you can use the handbook by all means give the undersigned a call or give your requirements to Monique. I am supplying the three outlying district reps. with plenty of copies so you may use them as a source of procurement. If you plan to be in the Helena area soon please arrange to pick up some copies. If you need them for a class or other good civic reason then we will mail copies to you.



## 1993 Duty Officer Compendium

In 1993, DES Duty Officers responded to quite a variety of incidents that occurred within our state. The reports include:

Avalanches .....	1
Earthquakes .....	2
Fires .....	1
Floods .....	2
Hazmat spills .....	196
Severe weather .....	25
Misc .....	26

The grand total of duty officer calls for 1993 was 253; 77 percent of which were Hazmat related incidents.

Yellowstone County, with 34 reported incidents, had the most hazmat incidents for 1993. Most of those were SO2 releases from the refineries.

Blaine, Dawson, Deerlodge, Carter, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Liberty, Park, Sheridan, Sweet Grass, Teton, and Wheatland Counties all tied for the least hazmat incidents, with 1 report from each.

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## GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE THEME!

by  
Bob Musselman

The theme for this year's Governor's Conference is "Back to the Basics.. Strengthening Emergency Management Partnerships to Better Assist Local Jurisdictions."

As currently scheduled, Governor Racicot will speak to the conference at the luncheon on Wednesday, February 16th. Mr. Michael Armstrong, the director of FEMA Region VIII is scheduled to speak at the banquet Wednesday evening.

Many of those attending last year's fall workshop requested that DES attempt to bring Mr. Clancy Philipsborn, the President of the Mitigation Assistance Corporation of Boulder, Colorado back to the Governor's Conference to discuss the concepts of hazard mitigation with elected officials. Clancy will speak on Wednesday afternoon on "Hazard Mitigation...the Future of Disaster Recovery."

Also from Colorado, Mr. Robert Kistner, the Chief of Local Services for the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and Executive Director of the Colorado Hazard Mitigation Council will speak on Thursday on Damage Assessment. Mr. Kistner will also be available to discuss the Mitigation Council during the Poster Sessions and throughout the conference.

A large portion of the conference is scheduled in workshop format. Those sessions are listed in the agenda that has been sent to you and we suggest that you try to determine which sessions you would like to attend before you arrive in Billings. Admission tickets

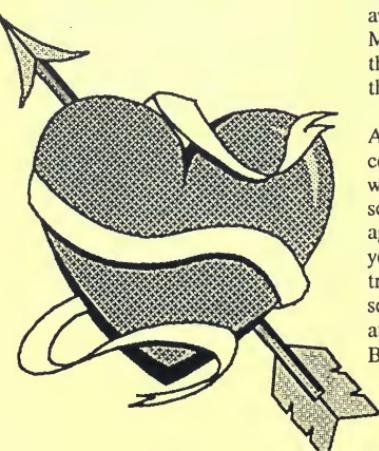
will be required to these sessions because of space limitations and these tickets will be provided at registration.



### POSTER SESSION

In addition to Agency and Organization displays at this year's conference we encourage any DES Coordinator who has a project or program that you would like to share with others to participate in the Poster Session. The displays will be set up on Tuesday evening and remain up throughout the conference.

To reserve space and obtain any needed logistical support please contact Bob Musselman at DES in Helena.



## **EXERCISE & TRAINING INFORMATION**

by  
**NancyJo Ilminen**

### **Exercise Design Course**

The Exercise Design Course was successfully conducted December 8-10, 1993 in Hardin by NJ, Fred Cowie, and Carole Raymond, Rosebud County DES Coordinator. Participants represented emergency management from Big Horn County and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

A note of appreciation and thanks to Alan Hanson, Big Horn County DES Coordinator, who did an excellent job recruiting for this training activity.

### **Introduction to Emergency Management**

The Introduction to Emergency Management Course was held in Billings at the Holiday Inn, December 13-17. Ken Jarolimek, North Dakota Exercise Training Officer, juggled his units of instruction and co-managed

the course due to NJ's bout with the flu. Carole Raymond, Bill Bishop, Col. Marvin Besel, Billings Fire Marshal Phil Gerber, and Yellowstone County Coordinator Jim Kraft supported the course with excellent presentations.

Yellowstone County Commissioners Ziggy Ziegler, Bill Kennedy, and Sheriff Maxwell served as Crisis Prone County's Chief Elected Officials on the last day. They heard three distinctly different approaches to successful emergency management.

Montana participants are to be commended for all of their hard work which resulted in excellent presentations! Kudos to Kraft for his recruitment efforts.

### **Updates from EMI**

The PDS CAPSTONE Course has been dropped from the curriculum! EMI's decision to drop this course was in reaction to budgetary restraints. In the future, persons who complete the seven existing PDS courses (G120, G230, G235, G240, G241, G242, and G244) or the All Hazards Civil

Defense (G245) and Creative Financing (G243) courses to substitute for Exercise Design (G120) should forward requests and documentation to the State Training Officer for the PDS Certificate of Completion.

### **Exercise Reporting**

The Emergency Management Exercise Reporting System (EMERS) is off to a good start. Just a few submissions had to be returned for additional information. If you are experiencing any problems with filling out the form (95-44) contact your District Representative or the Exercise Training Officer.

**75-5 EZ**

The General Application Form 75-5 has been condensed to postcard size to facilitate the ease of submission to the state office. This form is to be used *only* for State sponsored courses. You will still be required to fill out the long form when requesting application at EMI or other state's training activities. Contact your District Rep or State Training Officer for a supply.

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*The Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Disaster and Emergency Services Division. It is funded, in part, by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

*Contributions of articles and ideas are welcome. Deadlines for submission are January 8–February issue, April 8–May issue, July 8–August issue and October 8–November issue.*

*The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. The articles in this newsletter do not constitute official policy. Questions regarding articles may be addressed to the DES Newsletter Editor.*

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